



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Contact: Ryan Scarpino
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 (office)
412-339-7995 (cell)
Ryan.Scarpino@AlleghenyCounty.us

ACHD Issues Rabies Precautions for East Hills and Penn Hills Residents

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is informing residents in the East Hills neighborhood of Pittsburgh and in the municipality of Penn Hills of a rabid raccoon that was killed by a dog in the 8500 block of Frankstown Avenue. The dog was up-to-date on its rabies vaccinations and is doing fine.

The incident took place within the city limits of Pittsburgh, but it is very close to the Penn Hills border.

“All residents should avoid any kind of contact with wild and stray animals, especially those in the East Hills and Penn Hills areas where the raccoon was killed,” said Health Department Director, Dr. Karen Hacker. “Residents should notify their local animal control service, the police or the Pennsylvania Game Commission immediately, if any animal appears to be acting strange or becomes threatening.”

Rabies is a virus transmitted by an animal bite or scratch. It is almost always fatal when exposures are left untreated. The rabies vaccine is highly effective when given promptly after an exposure, but is still a major expense and inconvenience that can be avoided.

All county residents are reminded to avoid contact with wild animals. Residents should have their pets vaccinated, and watch for unusual behavior. Any individual who is bitten, scratched or otherwise exposed to saliva from a stray or any other animal, should immediately cleanse the contact area with soap and water, seek emergency medical treatment and call the Allegheny County Health Department, 412-687-ACHD (2243), to report the incident.

So far in 2017, a total of 14 rabid animals have been reported in Allegheny County: seven (7) raccoons, five (5) bats, one (1) cat and one (1) skunk.

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Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director
Allegheny County Health Department – Public Information Office
542 Fourth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-687-ACHD (2243) | Fax: 412-578-8325
www.achd.net

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